RIGHT FROM THE GET-GO...
YOU'RE KIDDING ME...!
HE BROKE UP A PAIR OF DORA?!
ざわ..
ざわ..
IS IT A ONE-SUIT HAND...?
A MANZU OR PINZU ONE...?
OR MAYBE...
CHAPTER 15:
第15話
愚行
MISSTEP

Translated by Sonickrazy
Cleaned by Crump Biggums
Typeset by Tambur

CHAPTER 15: 第15話 MISSTEP 愚行

Dealt a pair of dora from his hand at the very start of the round!! And then...
Hiroyuki, having spotted the opening he needed...
After his baffling Open Kan in the previous round...
On the 4th turn...
THE 60,000-POINT DIFFERENCE WILL BE DROPPED TO AROUND 20,000 POINTS IN A HEARTBEAT!
IF THE KID CAN WIN A KOKUSHI HAND HERE...
HE'S PROBABLY AROUND 3 TILES FROM TENPAI!
IT'S A KOKUSHI HAND!
THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT!
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THE MATCH WILL BE BACK IN THE AIR AGAIN... WE COULD BE IN FOR A LONG HAUL!
SINCE THIS MATCH ENDS WHEN YOU DROP TO 0 POINTS...
West 1st Round,
Dora: 7-sou
Hiroyuki: 11,400
Ichikawa: 68,200

THE BETTER THE KID'S EYES WILL START TO GET AFTER RECOVERING FROM THE MYDRIATICS.
AND THE LONGER THE MATCH GOES...
ICHIKAWA WILL WANT TO AVOID HAVING HIM FULLY RECOVER!
.....
AND FROM THERE
WHAT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY BAD FOR ICHIKAWA, WHO DOESN'T WANT TO HAVE A DRAGGED-OUT MATCH...
WOULD BE SOMETHING ELSE THAT MIGHT OCCUR DUE TO A CLOSE POINT DIFFERENCE...
A REPETITION OF WHAT HAPPENED THAT LEGENDARY NIGHT!
44 Years ago, the match between Akagi and Ichikawa.
Akagi stole a Xia from the discards of the player to his left...
Switched into Akagi's hand
Allowing him to score a direct hit on Ichikawa with the 4th Xia!

LET'S CUT THE POINTS TO A TENTH AND GO HEAD-TO-HEAD
RATHER THAN JUST LETTING OUR POINTS PILE UP...
He forcefully coerced Ichikawa into accepting a certain condition!
By exploiting this weakness of Ichikawa's...
DIVIDING BOTH OF THEIR POINTS BY 10!
CUTTING DOWN BOTH PLAYERS' POINTS!
ICHIKAWA WHO HAD RETREATED INTO SAFETY...
HAS PUSHED TO THE EDGE JUST LIKE THAT!
WITH THAT, THE 30,000-POINT DIFFERENCE WAS DROPPED TO ONLY 3000!

After winning with a Kokushi:
Hiroyuki: 11,400→43,400
Ichikawa: 56,200→60,200
Hiroyuki: 43,400→4300
Ichikawa: 60,200→6000
IF THE KID CUTS THE POINTS DOWN TO A TENTH AFTER SCORING A KOKUSHI MUSOU...
IT'S COMPLETELY POSSIBLE!
COULD DISAPPEAR IN AN INSTANT!
THAT 60,000-POINT DIFFERENCE HE HAS NOW...
THE POINT DIFFERENCE WOULD BE ONLY 1700 POINTS!
A 9-man!!
Hiroyuki switches out a tile from his hand...
On his 8th turn...
トン...

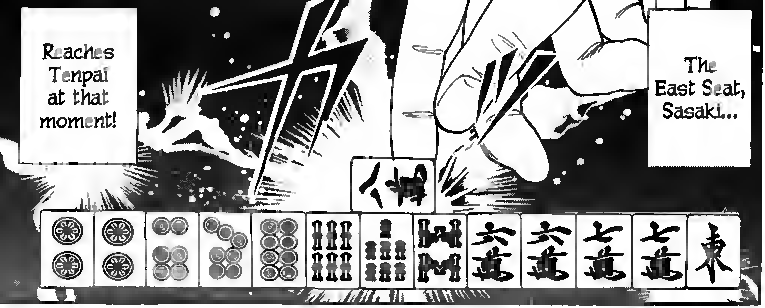
Kokushi tile of the round!!
He has now played his very first...
ざわ..
THIS ATMO-SPHERE...
HE LET GO OF A KOKUSHI TILE...
ざわ..
ざわ..
IS HE IN 1-SHAN-TEN...?!
Hiroyuki's Hand (as imagined)

THE ONLY THING ICHIKAWA CAN DO.....
IF HE CAN'T WIN WITH THIS HAND
Ichikawa's Hand
THE KID'S HAND LOOKS FAST.
THIS IS BAD

BY DEALING IN TO ANOTHER PLAYER!!
IS BAIL HIMSELF OUT OF THE ROUND...
West Seat: Itou
East Seat: Sasaki

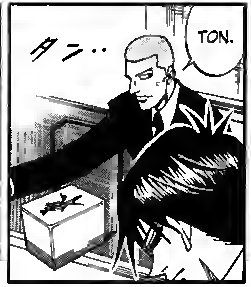
SINCE ITOU IS FOLD-ING...

HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEAL INTO THE DEALER SASAKI...?

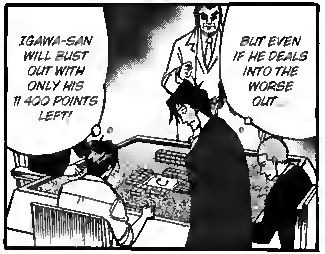

Reaches Tenpai at that moment!
The East Seat, Sasaki...

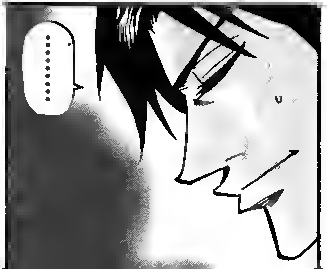
IF IT'S HIS BETTER OUT 6-MAN, IT'LL BE 18000!
IT'S TENPAI ON 5-8 MAN WITH GUARANTEED SAN SHOKU

Nrgh.


TON.

The same turn, Ichikawa's draw...


IGAWA-SAN WILL BUST OUT WITH ONLY HIS 11 400 POINTS LEFT!
BUT EVEN IF HE DEALS INTO THE WORSE OUT...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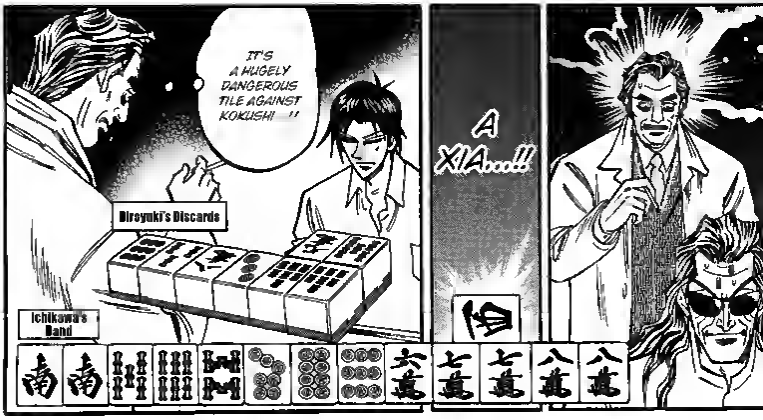
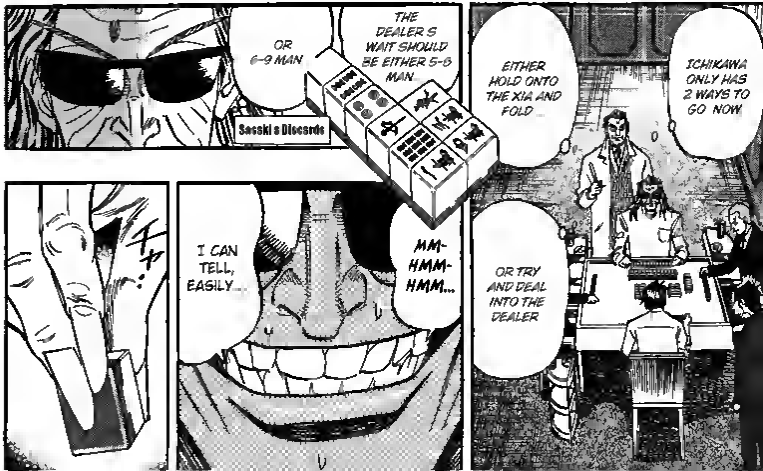
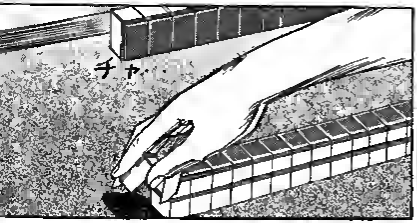
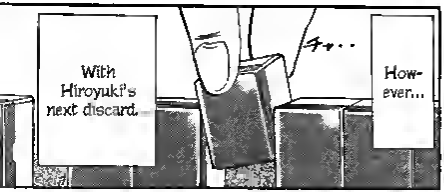

IT'S A HUGELY DANGEROUS TILE AGAINST KOKUSHI...!!
Hiroyuki's Discards
Ichikawa's Hand
A XIA...!!


OR 6-9 MAN
THE DEALER'S WAIT SHOULD BE EITHER 5-8 MAN...
Sasaki's Discards
EITHER HOLD ONTO THE XIA AND FOLD...
ICHIKAWA ONLY HAS 2 WAYS TO GO NOW
I CAN TELL, EASILY...
MM-HMM-HMM...
OR TRY AND DEAL INTO THE DEALER

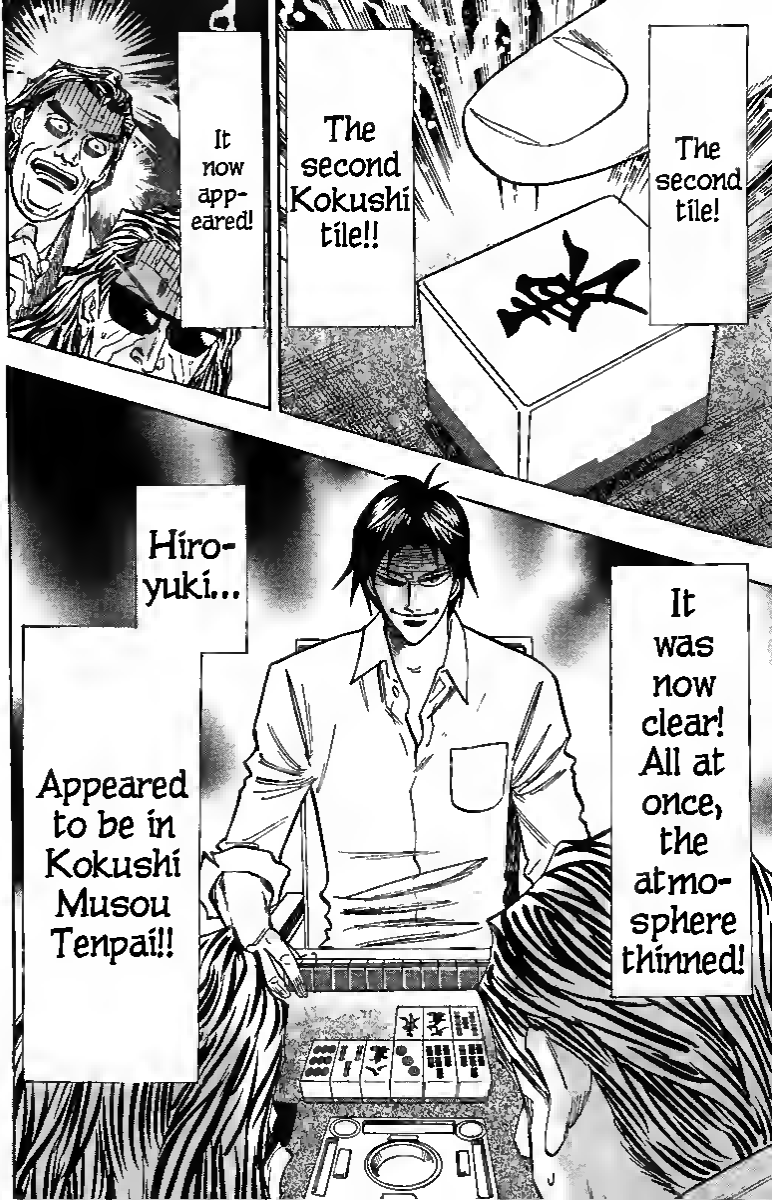
HE WENT FOR IT?!
NO FURTHER THAN 1-SHAN--TEN...!!
THE KID IS STILL...



ICHIKAWA'S STILL COMING AT US!


With Hiroyuki's next discard...
How-ever...

Everyone at the table would be frozen up!


It now appeared!
The second Kokushi tile!!
The second tile!
Hiroyuki...
Appeared to be in Kokushi Musou Tenpai!!
It was now clear! All at once, the atmosphere thinned!

On his next turn...
However, Ichikawa, too...
IS HE IN TENPAI...? DID HE GET THERE?
ざわ…
ざわ…
!
MM-HMM...
MM-HMM-HMM-HMM...!
He is now in Tenpai, on 6- and 9-man!!
Draws the Dora!
南
南
六萬
七萬
七萬
八萬
八萬

ざわ..ざわ..
ざわ..
NOW THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN...
HE CAN ONLY RON WITH THE 6-MAN BUT...
East Seat, Sasaki:
5-8 Man wait
3 PLAYERS IN THE ROUND NOW APPEARED TO BE IN TENPAI!!
Ichikawa:
6-9 Man Wait

No one is able to Tsumo...
How-ever...
AH..?
As the 11th turn rolls around.
And the tile Hiroyuki draws on that turn...
THIS IS...

The 6-man!!!
Is Ichikawa's winning tile...
六萬
HE DREW THE 6-MAN NOW, OF ALL TIMES...?!
IT'S PROBABLY ICHIKAWA'S WINNING TILE, BUT...
やっ
まさか

However, Hiroyuki was considering...
Something entirely different at this moment!
I... CAN FEEL SOME-THING...
.....
?
I SEE... SO THAT'S IT...
THIS TILE IS FROM 2 ROUNDS AGO.
IN THAT CASE...

He deals Ichikawa's winning tile and calls Riichi!
Hiroyuki does not fold!
RIICHI!
AHHHH!
AH...
West Seat, Itou's Discards
THE PERFECT TILE FOR ICHI-KAWA!
THERE IT IS!
WHY AREN'T YOU WINNING?
HUH?!
WHY'D YOU RIICHI WITH THAT?!

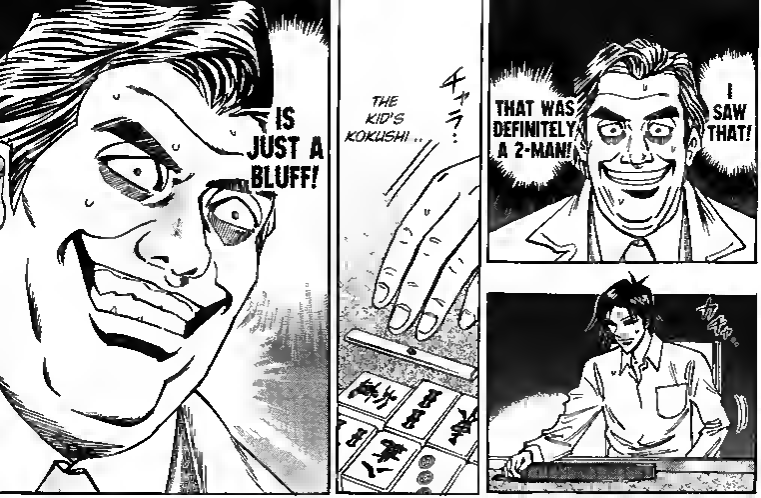
And at this moment, Hasekura notices something that puts him on edge...!
JUST HOW LUCKY CAN ONE KID BE...?!
HE SQUEEZED THROUGH A DEATHLY DANGEROUS SPOT...!!!
IT'S SAME-TURN FURITEN!
WHAT'S THAT..?
?
Ichikawa's Hand

THAT'S ODD...

THE TILE ICHIKAWA'S ABOUT TO DRAW...
IS OFF CENTER...?
DID THE KID SET UP A TRAP WHEN HE WENT TO DRAW ?
IT COULDN'T BE...

THERE WASN'T ANYTHING OFF ABOUT THE WAY HE DREW HIS TILE...
NO...
How-ever...
.....
.....
IN A SPOT LIKE THIS, COULD HE...?!
HE COULDN'T HAVE USED A SLEIGHT OF HAND...
YOUR RICHI STICK
This discomfort of Hasekura's would be dispelled in the following moment.
Unease would give way to temp-tation...!!
In an in-stant...
BUMP...
YOU HAVEN'T PUT IN YOUR RICHI STICK YET
SORRY.
OH YEAH...

Hiroyuki knocks over a tile on accident!!
An innocent mistake!!
Even though he quickly rights his mistake...
It is regret-ful...!!
EH-HEH-HEH...
It is already too late!!

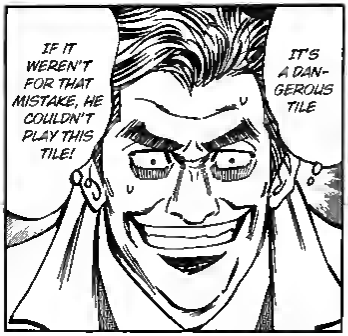

IS JUST A BLUFF!
THE KID'S KOKUSHI...
ギラ!
THAT WAS DEFINITELY A 2-MAN!
I SAW THAT!
ﾊｱﾊｱ...

Hiroyuki's Hand
(as imagined)
IT'S ALL A RUSE!!

HE WAS TRYING TO MAKE ICHIKAWA TRY AND BAIL HIMSELF OUT OF DANGER BY DEALING INTO THE DEALER'S HAND!
HE WAS JUST TRYING TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A KOKUSHI TENPAI
IT WAS A BLUFF OF RIICHI, BUT...
IN THAT CASE
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

The same turn

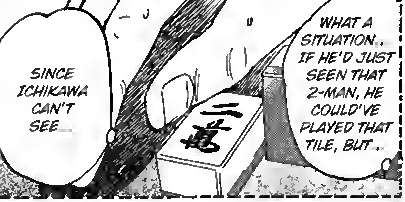
IT WAS A COMPLETE FAILURE!!
HE MADE A TERRIBLE MISSTEP AT A CRITICAL MOMENT BY KNOCKING OVER THAT TILE!


IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT MISTAKE, HE COULDN'T PLAY THIS TILE!
IT'S A DANGEROUS TILE

Is a Xia!
Ichikawa's draw...

SINCE THE KID'S JUST BLUFFING YOU, YOU CAN PLAY THAT XIA WITHOUT..
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, ICHIKAWA!

Yes. The blind Ichikawa..


SINCE ICHIKAWA CAN'T SEE...
WHAT A SITUATION.. IF HE'D JUST SEEN THAT 2-MAN, HE COULD'VE PLAYED THAT TILE, BUT..

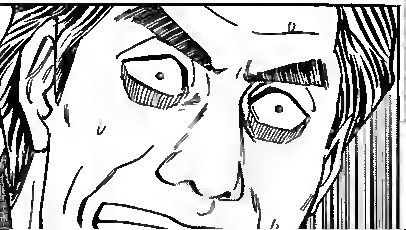
GNNGH...
Did not, and could not see Hiroyuki's mistake!!

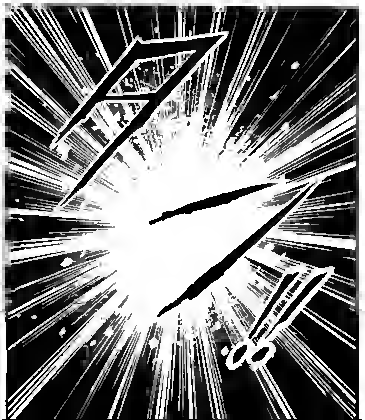
AT THIS RATE, HE'S JUST GOING TO DEAL INTO THE DEALER'S HAND!
HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT IT'S A BLUFF!

THE WAY THE KID WANTS, EVEN THEN...!!
FOR IT TO GO...

EVEN AFTER HE GAVE AWAY SO MUCH WITH THAT MISTAKE
Ah...

GNNGH!





XIA??!!

THAT KOKUSHI OF YOURS...

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
I CAN READ YOUR AURA, BOY!

ORDINARILY, I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO DEAL THIS TILE AGAINST THAT RIICHI...
MM-HMM-HMM...
HOW-EVER...

WITH NOTHING BUT HIS EARS...
HE SAW THROUGH IT?!
HE SAW THROUGH THE BLUFF?!
IS A BLUFF!
MY AURA?
REALLY?
HAHA...
YOUR TRUE NATURE...
YOU'VE JUST EXPOSED...
WHAT?
BY MISREADING MY HAND!
KOA...
KOA...

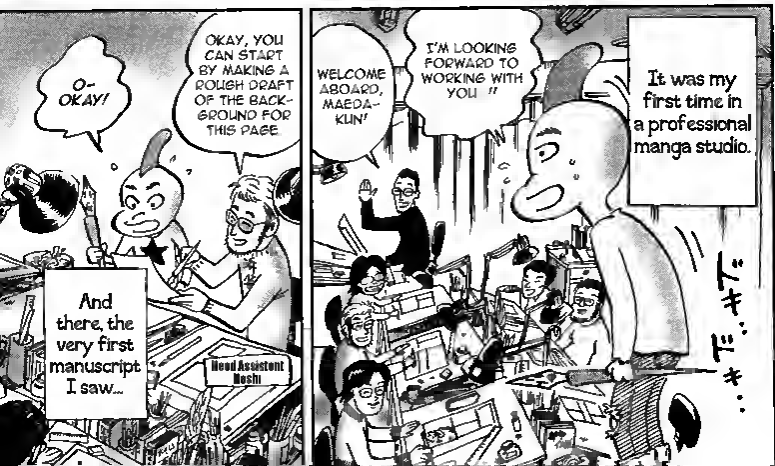
A COMPLETE, LEGITIMATE...
RON! 32,000 POINTS!!
KOKUSHI TENPAI!!
After the West 1st Round:
Hiroyuki: 43,400
Ichikawa: 36,200

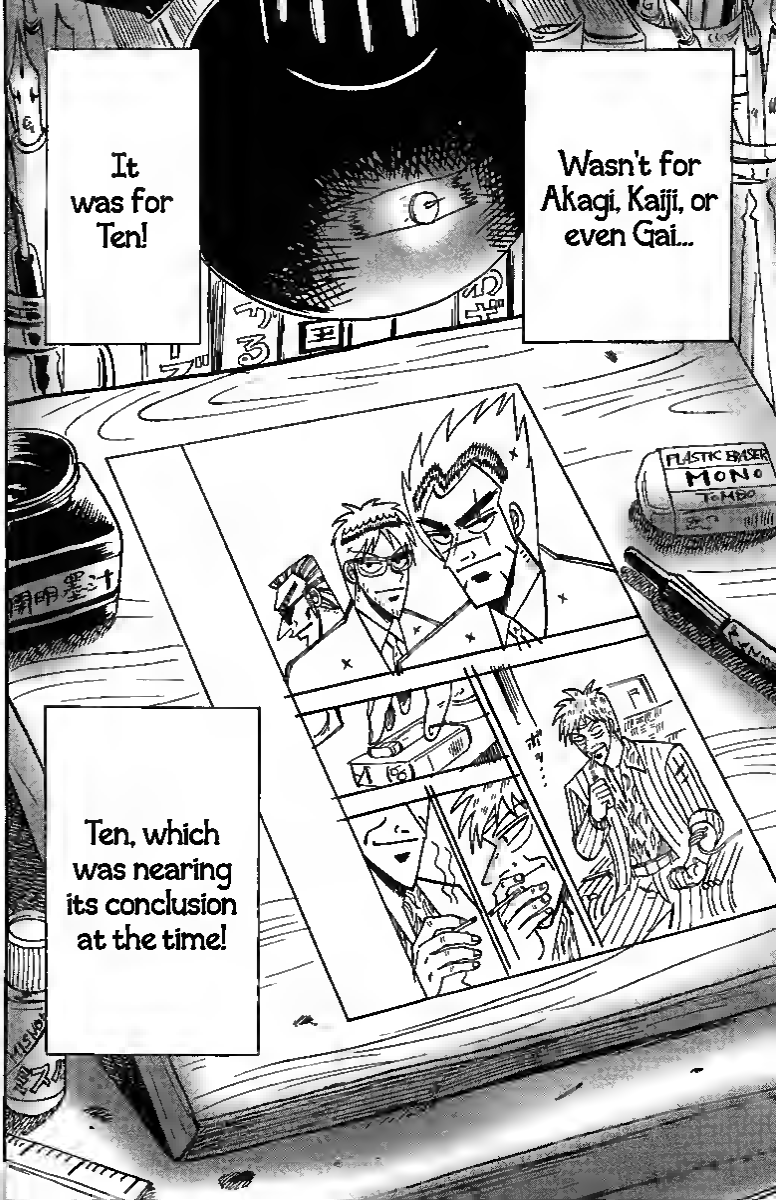
THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!!
IT CAN'T BE!!
IT'S NOT POS-SIBLEEEE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT 2-MAN??!!

HERO ひろ 第2巻 完

It was about 10 years ago.
Omake Manga
Hiroyuki and Me
MAEDA JIROU

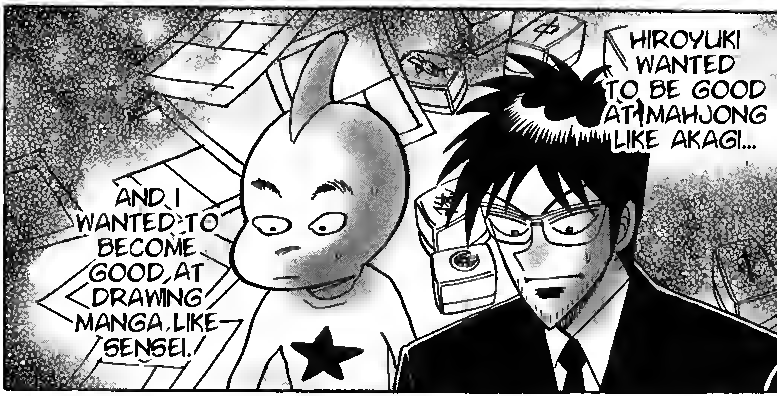
I was a huge fan of Fukumoto-Sensei, so I decided to ask to be his apprentice.
NOW HIRING ASSISTANTS
Looking for young, aspiring artists. Come to xxxx in Tokyo to apply. -Fukumoto Productions
Fukumoto Noburaki
I'd mostly been learning on my own until that point...

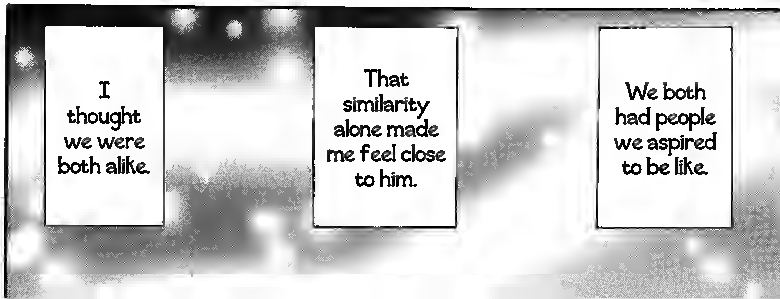

O-OKAY!
OKAY, YOU CAN START BY MAKING A ROUGH DRAFT OF THE BACK-GROUND FOR THIS PAGE.
And there, the very first manuscript I saw...
Head Assistant Hoshi
WELCOME ABOARD, MAEDA-KUN!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!!
It was my first time in a professional manga studio.
ドキ・ドキ・・


It was for Ten!
Wasn't for Akagi, Kaiji, or even Gai...
Ten, which was nearing its conclusion at the time!
PLASTIC ERASER
MONO

As Ten grew closer and closer to its conclusion.
So I diligently worked day after day..
Rough sketching
Inking
Whiting
Filling in
Toning
WOWW... SO THIS IS POO'S MANU-SCRIPT...
THIS ROUGH DRAFT OF AKAGI...
IS SO COOL!
Sensei had continued to make hit after hit through his career
After making his debut at a young age...
That Sensei was like the genius Akagi...
So I began to think...

Came to me whenever I looked at Sensei.
The same emotions Hiroyuki had when he looked at Akagi...
And I was close to Hiroyuki.


HIROYUKI WANTED TO BE GOOD AT MAHJONG LIKE AKAGI...
AND I WANTED TO BECOME GOOD AT DRAWING MANGA, LIKE SENSEI.


I thought we were both alike.
That similarity alone made me feel close to him.
We both had people we aspired to be like.

HEY, HIRO... WHEN WE'RE DONE WRITING THIS MANGA...
I HOPE WE'LL BOTH BE A BIT CLOSER TO OUR GOALS.
That's my greatest wish as a Mangaka.
Hiroyuki and Me / Fin

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第1集、10万部突破

第2集だけのスペシャル・コンテンツ!!
1.ここでしか読めない!幻の自伝マンガ
［感動手記!!生きている私］発掘収録!!
2.直言3時間30分!［人生逆転インタビュー］!!
3.［名言ランキング］人気投票ベストテン!!
4.しょこたんの［私的名言ベスト5］中川翔子!!

の話題作、第2弾!!

読者から、熱い反響が続々…!!

もう…溜め出そう…!
いわゆる「まとも」から
放たれた人生に…!(赤木しげる「天」第156話)

私はこれで会社に退職願を出しました。
やりたいことに見切りをつけて、
日付が変わるまで働いて、
子ども産まなきゃとか、不動産買わなきゃとか、
汲汲としていた時期だったので、
読んで吐くほど泣きました。 ——読者より

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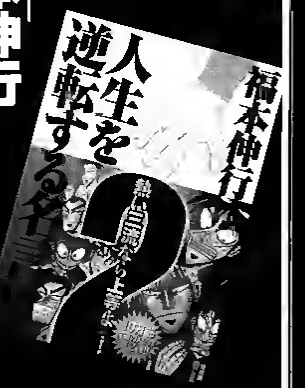

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初版発行　2011年3月12日

著者／前田治郎
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発行者／高橋一平

発行所／(株)竹書房

〒102-0072
東京都千代田区飯田橋2-7-3

竹書房ホームページ
http://www.takeshobo.co.jp

TEL.03-3264-1576(代表)
03-3234-6201(編集)

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Printed in Japan
印刷所/凸版印刷株式会社